

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2020

Sam Nunnally called the special meeting of the Fair Commission on July 23, 2020 to order at 6:30 pm in the Expo Building of the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

Roll call of members: Sam Nunnally, Mark Carlson, Helen Keil, Doug Wise and Pam Holmquist were present. Jessica Treweek was excused.

Staff present: Mark Campbell.

Guests present: Tamelee Robinson, Kianna Gardner, Dan Manson, Sharon Askelson, Carol Olson, Kaitlynn Bennett, Susan Munsinger, Micah Drew, Robert L. Eickerd, Shila Fritz, Hannah Boll, Trisha Boll, Ryan Pitts, Kyle Waterman, Gary Barone and Nori Pearce.

Agenda approval: Sam moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Doug Wise. Motion passed.

Past meeting minutes: Minutes from the June 9th and July 16th are not available yet and will wait until they are done for next week's meeting.

Public Comment: Sam thanked everyone for attending and stated that education was most important. He called for public comment. Tamalee explained their dashboard of new cases (15), active total (53) and the hospitalized (3) that are for Flathead, 93 total cases for covid that the nurse's hotline had. Sam calls for any further public comments twice and there is none.

Following Unfinished business, Sam asked for any additional public comment again: Where do contestants stay while here and Mark Campbell answers the majority moves on. If rodeo constants stay, they will stay at their vehicle. Robert Eickerd asks at what point does our board decide to cancel the fair. Mark Campbell stated that decision the fair production started at the whole with concern areas being removed but ultimate decision belongs to the board. Gentlemen applauds us for being different and moving forward. Mark states that, as necessary, we will restrict gate entry, or anything needed during fair if it comes to that. A brief discussion followed about the changes.

Unfinished Business: Review of 2020 Fair Planning with Corona Virus considerations – a draft break-down by areas of the Fair was reviewed. Close work with the Health Department has continued throughout each step and activity. Planning and working forward on items such as staffing levels is being done. Discussion of specific details for livestock barns, food vendors, commercial booths, gates, restrooms, and stages was reviewed with good input. Carnival has their plans for sanitization and distancing which has been reviewed and will be watched as part of our whole.

Mark introduced Ellen Nelson, the Fair Covid coordinator and she speaks of the packet Mark shared with the health department. Ellen went over her extra sanitation stations, limiting amount of entering, signage placements, enforcing mask wearing and Mark states that 50 of our sanitation stations will be permanent and 10 will be moveable. Ellen states the plans of the grandstands to be released by rows after events to prevent congestion. Mark states we are working in the office and with the Indian relay about the mask wearing and requiring all to mask for entry to the fairgrounds and attend any events.

Mark explains the amendment and adjustments that North Star are seeking this year. Their move in time has been expanded to the end of July and their move out has been extended as well. The tickets are now a touchless ticketing system and no wristbands will be available this year. Any monetary they owe the fairgrounds will be added to the carnivals gross sales and have requested the gross at 10% before the straight amount. Mark has spoke with them over their sanitation process and was told they will require sanitizer before and after the rides. Sam asks for a motion, Doug moves to accept the contract with any changes or amendments that may be needed, Mark Carlson seconds. Motion passes with no opposed.

Sam asks for update on the rodeo. Mark states their corporate structure has changed drastically since January and with that is seeking reassurances about quality of show and fulfilment of contract requirements. Curtis did not make the phone call, so Mark tried calling again 4:20pm until after 5pm. Curtis was tied up with a water issue and was not able to get back to us. Mark called him on Wednesday to contact us back regarding questions we have to cover, he replied and the replies are in your folders. Our concerns are border crossing, P.R.C.A., parking, entries, slack, and more. Doug Wise expressed concerns about lack of communication and that we need top professional rodeo, that Kessler has not visited us and Mark Carlson agrees with Doug. Helen would like the best rodeo possible and make sure we can cancel or anticipatory breech as needed and believes we need to move on any red flag. Mark Campbell expresses his concern with the lack of information provided from the Keslers. Doug wise motions that we terminate contract with Kessler at this time and activate an agreement with Cervi for this year, then an ongoing management decision as we go forth, with a county right to extend. Mark Carlson seconds, Sam asks for discussion and has no further comment. Roll call done and motion passes with no opposed.

New Business: Mark provided an update on changes happening within the fair. Don K has picked up the RAM Rodeo sponsorship. Coors has declined their sponsorship based on the cancellation of the beer garden. All other items have already been covered.

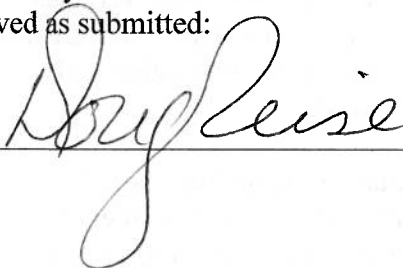
Committee or Director Reports: No committee or member reports were heard.

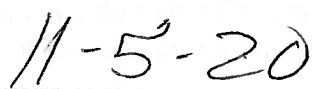
Manager's report: Receipt of damage claim for \$10,500 based from the wind event in May has been received from MACo. Repairs and replacement of damaged items has begun. Arena fencing replacement project has begun.

Adjournment: Mark Carlson moved to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Seconded by Doug Wise. All were in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:


Chair


Date